

What is claimed is:

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1. An absorbent article adapted to fit about the waist of a wearer,  
the absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the article  
comprising:

front and rear waist sections with at least a first portion of the rear waist section  
formed of a stretchable material,

an intermediate section which includes an absorbent portion and which  
intermediate section interconnects the front and rear waist sections, and

a gasketing assembly operatively joined with the first portion of the rear waist  
section to mechanically deploy a gasket element upon tensioning of the stretchable  
material, the gasket element configured to inhibit a longitudinal flow of human  
discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article.

2. The absorbent article of claim 1 having a longitudinal centerline  
wherein the gasket element is centered about the longitudinal centerline.

3. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the gasket element  
comprises a face portion deployable toward the waist of the wearer and at least one  
thrust portion effective to deploy the face portion toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   4.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the at least one thrust  
2     portion comprises a compression resistant member.

1                   5.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the compression  
2     resistant member is encased within a soft covering.

1                   6.     The absorbent article of claim 3 wherein the gasket element  
2     comprises at least a pair of opposed thrust portions effective to deploy the face portion  
3     toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   7.     The absorbent article of claim 6 wherein each of the pair of  
2     opposed thrust portions comprises a compression resistant member.

1                   8.     The absorbent article of claim 7 wherein the compression  
2     resistant member of each of the pair of opposed thrust portions is encased within a soft  
3     covering.

1                   9.     The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein a first longitudinal edge  
2     of the gasket element is joined at the rear waist section to form a closed rear waist end  
3     portion.

10. The absorbent article of claim 9 wherein the gasket element is effective to form a containment volume effective to contain human discharge therewithin.

11. The absorbent article of claim 10 wherein the gasket element is effective to contain human discharge spaced apart from contact with the body of the wearer.

12. ~~The~~ The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

13. The absorbent article of claim 1 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward the waist of the wearer.

14. The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a pair of leg portions each having a first terminal end connected to a face of the bodyside liner.



19. The disposable absorbent article of claim 18 wherein at least one of the at least a pair of opposed thrust portions comprises a compression resistant member.

20. The disposable absorbent article of claim 17 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

21. The disposable absorbent article of claim 17 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward the waist of the wearer.

22. In an absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and which absorbent article includes a front waist section, a stretchable rear waist section, and an intermediate section which interconnects the front and rear waist sections and which intermediate section includes an absorbent portion, a method comprising:

for inhibiting a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article.

1                   23.    The method of claim 22 wherein the absorbent article has a  
2 longitudinal centerline and wherein the gasket element is centered about the  
3 longitudinal centerline.

1                   24.    The method of claim 22 wherein the gasket element includes a  
2 face portion and at least one thrust portion wherein upon tensioning the stretchable  
3 rear waist section the face portion is deployed toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   25.    The method of claim 22 wherein upon deployment of the gasket  
2 element, a containment volume effective to contain human discharge therewithin and  
3 spaced apart from contact with the body of the wearer is formed.

1                   26.    The method of claim 22 wherein the absorbent article also  
2 includes a bodyside liner wherein deployment of the gasket element directs the  
3 bodyside liner toward the waist of the wearer.

1                   27.    The method of claim 22 wherein the tensioning of the stretchable  
2 rear waist section effects deployment of a plurality of gasket elements for inhibiting  
3 a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a bodyfacing surface of the absorbent  
4 article.

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